

O 130936Z DEC 72 ZYH ZFF-1 ZFF-4

FM THE WHITE HOUSE TOHAK 181

[REDACTED] PARIS

25X1

ZEM

UNCLAS [REDACTED]

CITE WH29888

25X1

FM: THE SITUATION ROOM

TO: WINSTON LORD FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER

DELIVER IMMEDIATELY

TOHAK 181

DECEMBER 13, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: MORNING NEWS SUMMARY

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

THE POST THIS MORNING HEADLINES MOUNTING HOPES AS YOU DELAY YOUR RETURN FROM PARIS. JONATHAN RANDAL REPORTS SIGNS THAT A SEARCH FOR A REVISED VIETNAM CEASE-FIRE HAVE ENTERED THE CLIMATIC STAGE ACCUMULATED YESTERDAY IN PARIS, BUT WITHOUT OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION FROM THE U.S. OR NORTH VIETNAM. THE POSTPONEMENT OF YOUR RETURN LAST NIGHT WAS AN APPARENT LAST-MINUTE DECISION TO SCHEDULE ANOTHER OF THE ACCELERATED ROUNDS OF EXPERTS' TALKS THIS MORNING, FOLLOWED BY A FORMAL SESSION BETWEEN YOU AND LE DUC THO. RANDAL CONCLUDES THE FACT THAT THE TWO SESSIONS THIS MORNING WERE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE WITHIN 90 MINUTES OF EACH OTHER APPARENTLY POINT TO A RAPID CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. REPORTEDLY HIGH NORTH VIETNAMESE SOURCES WARNED AGAINST EXCESSIVE OPTIMISM ABOUT COMPLETING THE REMAINING WORK TODAY. THE SOURCE STATED: "I DOUBT VERY STRONGLY THAT EVERYTHING WILL BE SETTLED THAT QUICKLY," AND ADDED: "WE HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE END OF THE WEDNESDAY MEETINGS TO SEE IF INDEED IT WILL BE THE LAST ONE." NONETHELESS, THE BASIC OPTIMISM SURROUNDING THE NEGOTIATIONS WAS BUOYED BY REPORTS THAT YOU AND THO ON MONDAY HAD WORKED OUT THE REMAINING DETAILS OF A KEY COMPROMISE INVOLVING THE WITHDRAWAL OF NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS FROM THE SOUTH. (A-1)

FROM OTTAWA, CLAUDE LEMELIN WRITES THAT NORTH VIETNAM FAVORS CANADA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION TO SUPERVISE AN EVENTUAL CEASE-FIRE IN VIETNAM. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS INFORMED OF HANOI'S POSITION BY DAVID JACKSON, THE CANADIAN COMMISSIONER ON THE ICC IN VIETNAM. AFTER A VISIT TO HANOI LAST

- ASSURANCES THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD BE EFFECTIVE;
- THAT ALL FOUR PARTIES CONCERNED WILL BE BOUND BY THE AGREEMENT AND WILL INVITE CANADA TO PARTICIPATE;
- THAT THERE WILL BE A CONTINUING POLITICAL AUTHORITY TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COMMISSION MEMBERS;

-2-

- THAT THE COMMISSION WILL HAVE THE NECESSARY FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT; AND
- THAT THERE WILL BE AN ARRANGEMENT FOR A MEMBER'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COMMISSION. (A-24)

CARROLL KILPATRICK WRITES THAT PRESIDENT NIXON IS PLANNING ANOTHER TRIP TO EUROPE, BUT THAT IT IS DEPENDENT ON A VIETNAM SETTLEMENT. ACCORDING TO KILPATRICK, THE PRESIDENT'S INTENTIONS ARE TO CONSULT WITH EUROPEAN LEADERS AFTER A VIETNAM SETTLEMENT AND BEFORE THE VISIT OF BREZHNEV TO THE U.S. (A-6)

THE POST REPORTS THAT THE SPECIAL WHITE HOUSE PHONE, REPORTEDLY USED FOR CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN TWO DEFENDENTS IN THE WATERGATE BUGGING CASE, WAS ACTUALLY INSTALLED BY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS INVESTIGATING LEAKS TO THE NEWS MEDIA. THE POST WAS TOLD THAT THE INVESTIGATION OF ADMINISTRATION LEAKS FOCUSED ON HOW THE NEW YORK TIMES OBTAINED THE PENTAGON PAPERS AND THE SOURCE OF NATIONAL

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2010/08/06 : LOC-HAK-248-2-5-9

FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMAN SHOWS IMPROVEMENT, BUT HE REMAINS IN SERIOUS CONDITION. (A-18)

APOLLO 17 ASTRONAUTS SPENT THEIR SECOND EXCURSION ON THE MOON EXPLORING A ROCK SLIDE AT THE BASE OF A MASSIVE LUNAR CLIFF. THE THIRD AND LAST MOON EXPLORATION IS SCHEDULED TODAY. (A-1)

MURREY MARDER WRITES THAT THE U. S. BRUSHED PAST PRESIDENT THIEU'S ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL FOR AN EXPERIMENTAL CEASE-FIRE IN THE WAR, STARTING AT CHRISTMAS, AND AN EXCHANGE OF U. S. AND NORTH VIETNAMESE PRISONERS. ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS HELD TO A "NO COMMENT" POSITION ON THIEU'S OFFER, INDICATING ITS DETERMINATION TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM ON DISENGAGING U. S. FORCES FROM THE WAR, WITH OR WITHOUT THIEU'S APPROVAL. ACCORDING TO MARDER, MANY U. S. OFFICIALS CONCLUDE THAT THIEU IS REALLY ENGAGED IN "CONDITIONING" SOUTH VIETNAM FOR EVENTUAL ACQUIESCENCE TO THE AGREEMENT. OTHER SOURCES BELIEVE THIEU IS DETERMINED TO SHOW THAT ANY AGREEMENT WILL HAVE TO BE "IMPOSED" ON HIM. (A-20)

THOMAS LIPPMAN IN SAIGON REPORTS THIEU'S PROPOSAL BEING MADE BECAUSE OF THE BELIEF THAT THE PARIS TALKS ARE DEADLOCKED, ACCORDING TO WELL-PLACED GOVERNMENT SOURCES. THE OFFER REPRESENTS THE MOST THIEU FEELS HE CAN DO WITHOUT YIELDING ON WHAT HE REGARDS AS THE FUNDAMENTAL POINTS STILL AT ISSUE. ANOTHER OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE U. S. MISCALCULATED SOUTH VIETNAM'S DETERMINATION TO DEFEND ITS SOVEREIGNTY WHEN IT AGREED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WITH HANOI AND DESPITE HEAVY PRESSURE, THE U. S. FAILED TO CHANGE THIEU'S BASIC POSITION. (A-20)

IN HAVANA, FIDEL CASTRO SAID THE U.S. AND CUBA ARE "MOVING TOWARDS" AN AGREEMENT ON HIJACKING. HE ADDED THAT AN AGREEMENT HAS NOW "BECOME POSSIBLE" AND THAT "IN GENERAL, MY IMPRESSION IS THAT WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS."

EGYPTIAN PRIME MINISTER SIDKI YESTERDAY WON A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FROM THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DESPITE SHARP CRITICISM OF HIS STATEMENT THAT EGYPT IS READY FOR WAR WITH ISRAEL. (A-26)

VICTOR ZORZA SEES THE VIET CONG "PUPPETS" BEGINNING TO KICK THEIR HANOI MASTERS QUITE AS HARD AS SAIGON HAS BEEN KICKING YOU -- UNDER THE TABLE, IN THE SHINS. WHEN SAIGON RADIO SAID THAT YOU HAD BEEN "CONSPICUOUSLY AIRING HIS AMBITION TO CREATE A LEGEND FOR HIMSELF" AS YOU ANNOUNCED THE TERMS OF A PEACE AGREEMENT, IT WAS REALLY USING YOU AS A WHIPPING BOY. ITS REAL TARGET WAS PRESIDENT NIXON. NOW COMES MADAME BINH, WITH THE COMPLAINT THAT "MANY OF OUR FRIENDS" ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE AGREEMENT. THOUGH SHE MAKES BELIEVE THAT SHE IS TALKING ABOUT HER "FOREIGN FRIENDS," IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THEY ARE MUCH CLOSER HOME. WHILE HANOI ARGUES THAT THE AGREEMENT CAN AND SHOULD END THE WAR, SHE COUNTERS THAT "WE DO NOT THINK THAT THIS AGREEMENT WILL END THE WAR." SHE DOUBTS WHETHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCORDS CAN BE AGREED, "EVEN THOUGH AN AGREEMENT SHOULD BE SIGNED." AS HANOI LOOKS FORWARD TO THE END OF THE FIGHTING, SHE BELIEVES THAT IT "WILL BE INTENSIFIED" AFTER THE AGREEMENT IS SIGNED. ZORZA CONTINUES THAT THE VIET CONG NO LONGER CONCEDE HANOI'S RIGHT TO BARGAIN AWAY THE LIVES OF SOUTHERN PRISONERS -- VC PRISONERS IN THE SOUTH -- ANY MORE THAN SAIGON CONCEDES YOUR RIGHT TO "SELL OUT" ITS OWN VITAL INTERESTS. BINH SAYS THAT THE "POSITION OF THE PRG" (AS DISTINCT FROM THE HANOI GOVERNMENT) IS THAT "WE" (THE VC AS DISTINCT FROM HANOI) "WILL BE PREPARED TO RELEASE ALL CAPTURED AMERICANS, AND AT THE SAME TIME, "WE DEMAND THAT THE U.S. AND THE SAIGON ADMINISTRATIONS RELEASE ALL SOLDIERS AND POLITICAL PRISONERS AND ALL OF OUR COMPATRIOTS WHO HAVE BEEN DETAINED." ZORZA CONCLUDES BY SAYING THAT YOU AND LE DUC THO CANNOT, PERHAPS, KICK THEIR RESPECTIVE PROTEGES WHERE IT HURTS; BUT THEY SHOULD BE ABLE, AT LEAST, TO KNOCK THEIR HEADS TOGETHER. (A-31)